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Annual Report

On the Health of the
Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight,
for the year 1946

BY

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PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE.

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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH OF THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY
OF
NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT.

COUNTY HALL,
HIGH STREET,
NEWPORT, I.W.

September, 1947.

*To the Urban Sanitary Authority, the Town Council of
the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.*

MR. MAYOR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Newport for the Year 1946.

I commenced duties as your Medical Officer of Health on March 1st, 1947, so that this report is compiled from the records of my predecessor.

The birth-rate increased by 0·3 per thousand of the population and the death-rate decreased by 1·2 per thousand. The infantile mortality rate increased by 8·4 per thousand but was less than the rate for England and Wales generally by 2·9.

There was a marked increase in the number of Infectious Disease Notifications, the figure being 361 compared with 53 the previous year due to the occurrence of 282 cases of measles and an outbreak of Paratyphoid Fever.

It is hardly necessary to emphasise the great need for new houses in the Borough.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	15,530
Population (Registrar General's Figures).	...					19,810
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1946) per						
rate books	...	...	...	...	...	5,061
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£133,255
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...				£538

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident
population 17·6

Still Birth—Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 19·7

Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 11·3

Death from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and
childbirth :—

Rate per 1000 total (live and still births) ... 2·7

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births 40·1

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 34·5

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live
births 100

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 32

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... Nil.

BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 349 of which 319 were legitimate and 30 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 17·6 per 1000 living; the birth rate for England and Wales being 19·1.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 224 which gives a death rate of 11·3 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 11·5.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 40·1 per 1000 registered live births; the rate for England and Wales generally was 43·0.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year 1946 there was no interruption of the water supply in Newport due to the steady supply maintained from the bore holes in the orchard at Carisbrooke. Although economy in the use of water by the public was urged, it was not found necessary to cut off the supply at night during the summer. The water from all sources is chlorinated and monthly samples of the treated water showed no evidence of harmful pollution. Quarterly samples of the raw water submitted for bacteriological examination showed that on four occasions water from the Bowcombe Well was slightly polluted with surface soil coli-aerogenes organisms. Samples from the other wells were free from pollution.

Water supplies from main supply 4986 dwelling houses and 19,510 population. None are supplied from stand pipes.

SWIMMING POOL.

Bacteriological control of the water in the swimming pool continued satisfactorily throughout the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new works of sewerage and sewage disposal were undertaken during the year. The number of dwelling-houses connected to sewers is 4581.

HOUSING.

Only 69 houses were inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts and of these 60 were found unfit.

Three statutory notices were issued under the above Acts, the necessary work in two cases being carried out by the Corporation on default of the owners.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A large proportion of the animals slaughtered in the whole Island are killed at the Government controlled slaughter houses in the Borough and this has added greatly to the work of the Meat and Food Inspector.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Beasts</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number inspected ...	1917	6544	5479	2538
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	2	5	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	562	11	542	126
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B. ...	29·42	·19	9·98	5
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	49	2	—	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned. ...	520	1	—	94
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B. ...	29·68	·05	—	4·09
Total meat condemned	<i>Tons.</i> 23	<i>Cwt.</i> 19	<i>Qrs.</i> 1	<i>Lbs.</i> 17
Other Foodstuffs ...	3	6	1	2
Total ...	27	5	2	19

In addition 1,310 tins of various foodstuffs were destroyed.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases, 361, was considerably greater than in 1945 (53).

Scarlet Fever accounted for only 13 but Measles for 282. There were no notifications of Diphtheria.

Immunisation against Diphtheria continued throughout the year. Every effort is made to persuade parents to take advantage of this universally acknowledged protective measure against one of the most killing diseases of childhood. All children at the age of one are offered protection and a further "boosting" dose is offered on entry into the infants' schools.

Of the children under 5, 44·8% are immunised and of children of school age, 94·8% are immunised.

PARATYPHOID FEVER AT WOOTTON.

During February and March, 1946, a sudden localized epidemic of paratyphoid B fever occurred in the Wootton District. In all, 62 persons were affected; of these 33 were clinical cases and 29 were symptomless excreters.

A chain of infection was traced from two carriers in a distant house by way of a defective cesspool and stream, on to the mud of the field of a dairy farm in which the milch cattle grazed. Paratyphoid organisms were isolated from both the carriers, from the cesspool, from the stream and from the muddy pastures.

The evidence was strongly suggestive of a milk borne infection although the disease was associated with the consumption of only one portion of the milk, that from the afternoon milking.

All necessary measures to prevent a recurrence of such infection were taken.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OCCURRING IN SCHOOLS

Mumps	...	...	15	Influenza	...	...	—
Chicken Pox	...	...	95	Influenzal colds	...	...	—
German Measles	...	...	3	Jaundice	...	...	—
Scabies	...	...	—				—
Ringworm	...	...	—				113
Impetigo	...	...	—				—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1946.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	13	4	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Para- typhoid) ...	34	18	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	2	—
Pneumonia ...	4	—	—
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorum ...	1	1	—
Other diseases gen- erally notifiable			
<i>Erysipelas</i> ...	6	—	—
<i>Encephalitis</i> <i>Lethargica</i> ...	—	—	—
<i>Cerebro Spinal</i> <i>Meningitis</i> ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	13	1	—
Measles ...	282	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Malaria ...	1	—	—
TOTALS	361	26	—

NOTE.—Figures for non-civilians are not included.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Malaria.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Poliomyelitis.	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	Whooping Cough.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles.
Under 1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
1 and under 2	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	28
2 " " 3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	26
3 " " 4	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	2	—	30
4 " " 5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	42
5 " " 10	7	—	—	1	—	10	—	—	—	—	5	—	133
10 " " 15	2	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
15 " " 20	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
20 " " 35	—	—	7	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
35 " " 45	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
45 " " 65	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	13	—	7	4	6	34	1	—	—	—	13	1	282

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
1	—	1	1	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1946.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
	Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ,, 5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 ,, 10	3	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
10 ,, 15	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 ,, 20	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20 ,, 25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ,, 35	9	7	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
35 ,, 45	4	3	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	1
45 ,, 55	4	3	1	—	—	4	3	1	—	—
55 ,, 65	2	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	28*	17	4	1	6	8†	5	2	—	1

*Included in this total are three patients who have been transferred from the mainland, two old cases "lost sight of" and returned, and two cases who had recovered and disease now returned.

†Includes three cases in which the Death Returns gave the first information.

